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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Venezuela

SUBJECT Military Junta Support of Delgado Chalbaud

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. On 23 February 1949 Lt. Colonel Marcos Perez Jimenez, Venezuelan Minister of National Defense, called a meeting of approximately 150 Army officers. Perez told those present that it was known that there were dissatisfaction and conspiratorial activities within the Army directed against Lt. Colonel Carlos Delgado Chalbaud, President of the Military Junta, which were supported by rightist elements. He wished the officers to know that he was opposed to any substitutions, additions, or changes of any kind in the composition of the Junta. He further stated that he and Lt. Colonel Luis Felipe Llovera Paez would support Delgado Chalbaud in any crisis and that the members of the Junta were in complete accord with the President.*
2. Llovera Paez spoke to the gathering along the same lines and stated that he was in full agreement with the statements made by Perez.
3. Major Mendoza, commander of the military garrison at La Guaira is being ignored in the chain of command, and the military police in La Guaira are now reporting directly to the Minister of Defense.

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* **Comment.** It is believed that short of a double-cross, which would be politically unwise for Perez and Llovera Paez, the Junta will stand together behind Delgado. It is very doubtful, however, if the above-mentioned speeches will placate the opposition to Delgado Chalbaud which exists in the Army. The opposition to Delgado Chalbaud has not reached the point where the Junta considers it necessary to alert loyal troops.

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